

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00  
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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /118 W  
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O P 150024Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9564  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0524

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, PORG

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW MECHANISM: MEETING WITH G-77

REF: MEETING BETWEEN WEO AND G-77

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1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US AND SEVERAL WEO COUNTRIES MET WITH G-77 COUNTERPARTS TO REVIEW INFORMALLY MAJOR OVERVIEW ISSUES. G-77 HAS ENDORSED ALGERIAN FOR CHAIRMAN IN 1978, SO PRESUMABLY HE WILL BE ELECTED. DIFFERENCES REMAIN ON DEGREE OF ASSURANCES G-77 CAN PROVIDE THAT WEO WILL NAME CHAIRMAN NEXT YEAR. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LONG RANGE AGENDA AND THAT EACH OVERVIEW MEETING SHOULD PREPARE THE AGENDA FOR THE SUCCEEDING ONE.

2. MORNING OF FEB 13 THE US AND SEVERAL WEO COUNTRIES (UK, FRANCE, FRG, DENMARK, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, SPAIN, JAPAN, EC COMMISSION) MET WITH G-77 CHAIRMAN MILLS (JAMAICA) AND OTHER G-77 REPRESENTATIVES(PAKISTAN, INDIA, VENEZUELA, PERU, ALGERIA, NIGERIA, IVORY COAST, YUGOSLAVIA) TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY THE MAJOR ISSUES CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNGA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO "OVERVIEW" THE NORT/SOUTH DIALOGUE. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE WEO GROUP.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP. HORMATS SOUGHT TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS

INDICATIONS BY G-77 THAT THEY AGREED TO ROTATING OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BETWEEN THE WEO GROUP AND THE G-77 AND THAT THE FIRST CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT THE US HAD A FIRST-RATE CANDIDATE AS DID THREE OTHER WEO COUNTRIES. MILLS REPLIED THAT THE G-77 HAD MADE THOSE COMMENTS BEFORE IT HAD A CANDIDATE OF ITS OWN FOR CHAIRMAN. NOW, HE SAID, THE G-77 HAD ENDORSED DJAZAIRI, THE ALGERIAN, AND WOULD PREFER THE CHAIRMANSHIP THE FIRST YEAR. MILLS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE ADVANTAGES OF A WEO CHAIRMAN THE FIRST YEAR AND HE SAID THE G-77 VALUES THE INTEREST IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP DISPLAYED BY THE US AND OTHERS. HOWEVER, THE G-77 DECIDED IT WANTED THE CHAIRMANSHIP THIS YEAR.

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4. MILLS REFERRED TO THE PROVISION IN THE OVERVIEW RES THAT THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VUREAU SHOULD BE ELECTED ANNUALLY. HE AGREED THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE ROTATED, BUT HE WOULD NOT EXPLICITLY AGREE THAT A WEO REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE IN THE CHAIR NEXT YEAR. HE SAID, FOR INSTANCE, THAT HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE ITS GOING TO SOCIALIST COUNTRY. MILLS SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE THREE CHAIRMEN: ONE FROM NEW TO THE END OF THIS YEAR, ANOTHER FOR CALENDAR 1979 AND A THIRD FROM JAN 1980 UNTIL THE 1980 SPECIAL SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON HOW TO RESOLVE MORE DIFINITIVELY THE ISSUE OF ROTATION.

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5. NEGOTIATIONS: ALTHOUGH MILLS STRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WOULD NOT PREEMPT NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORA, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT COULD HELP MOVE FORWARD NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE DEADLOCKED IN OTHER FORA--PARTICULARLY IF THOSE ISSUES WERE TAKEN UP AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. PAKISTAN INSISTED THAT THE OVERVIEW  
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MUST TAKE UP SPECIFIC ISSUES QUICKLY AND NECESSARILY WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS. THE US, UK AND CANADA WARNED THAT EFFORTS BY THE OVERVIEW TO PREEMPT OR INTERVENE IN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DELAY AND PREJUDICE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. HORMATS POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OVERVIEW'S CONDUCTING AND NEGOTIATIONS AND ITS DISCUSSING ISSUES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS. THE WAY THE OVERVIEW CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID, WAS FOR ITS DELIBERATIONS TO BE RECEIVED SERIOUSLY IN CAPITALS WHERE THEY COULD INFLUENCE COUNTRIES' POSITIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS.

6. AGENDA. MILLS OPPOSED FORMULATION OF A RIGID AGENDA BECAUSE THE OVERVIEW MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO TAKE UP TOPICS WHICH MIGHT HEAT UP AT A PARTICULAR TIME. HE AGREED THAT EACH MEETING SHOULD PREPARE THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ONE. THERE WOULD BE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PREPARATION FOR DIFFERENT MEETINGS. HE PROPOSED SOME MINISTERIAL LEVEL SESSIONS. (SUBSEQUENTLY, THE US INDICATED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS.). THE G-77 WILL PUT FORWARD ITS LIST OF 18 TOPICS AS A CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER, NOT A FORMAL AGENDA. THE G-77 EXPECT THESE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED, HOWEVER, PEREZ-GUERRERO OF VENEZUELA SAID THAT THE OVERVIEW SHOULD FOCUS ON SPECIFIC BONES OF CONTENTION.

7. HORMATS PUT FORWARD THE US PROPOSAL OF BEGINNING THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WITH A DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO SET A BROAD ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO DISCUSS MORE SPECIFIC ISSUES. WEO COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THIS APPROACH, AS DID PERU WHICH ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO CONSIDER RAW MATERIALS ISSUES. OTHER LDC'S DID NOT OBJECT, ONCE THEY WERE ASSURED THAT OUR APPROACH WAS NOT A DEVICE TO PRECLUDE THEIR BRINGING UP THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THEM. PAKISTAN SUGGESTED THAT TRANSFER  
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OF RESOURCES BROADLY CONCEIVED SHOULD BE THE FIRST SPECIFIC TOPIC. MILLS SAID THAT THE OVERVIEW MUST EXAMINE CLOSELY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIEC AGREEMENT.

8. NUMBER, DURATION AND PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS. THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT MEETINGS WOULD BE CALLED AS NEEDED, THAT THEY SHOULD BE THREE TO FOUR DAYS LONG AND THAT PREPARATION COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY APPROPRIATE EXISTING GROUPS, SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MEETINGS MORE MANAGEABLE, THE G-77 WILL APPOINT SPOKESMEN TO REPRESENT ITS VIEWS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES.

9. COMMENT: MEETING WAS HARMONIOUS AND REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORK PROGRAM, FORMAT AND PREPARATION OF MEETINGS. EVEN ON THE DELICATE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE OVERVIEW MECHANISM WOULD PREEMPT OR INTERVENE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN PROCESS IN OTHER FORA, MILLS WAS MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. NOW THAT G-77 HAS ENDORSED DJAZAIRI AS CHAIRMAN FOR 1978, THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE IS TO WHAT EXTENT THEY ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES THAT THE WEO GROUP WILL NAME THE CHAIRMAN FOR 1979. THE QUESTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 1980 REMAINS OPEN. CONCEIVABLY THE 1979 CHAIRMAN COULD CONTINUE FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS, IT COULD ROTATE BACK TO THE G-77 OR IT MIGHT GO TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY. THE LATTER GROUP HAS MANIFESTED LITTLE INTEREST IN THE OVERVIEW EXERCISE, HOWEVER. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014